CHRIS NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

4/17

How it's been going:

Hello! This may be stupid but who am I if not a person with silly ideas. Welcome to the first copy of my Chris newsletter for this April in the year 2025. As this is my first time please be patient with me as I work through my formatting. Either way, things have been good. We're reaching 1 year at my current 311 job in the city, which is honestly the longest job I've ever had. The weather has been particularly miserable recently with snow being on the ground almost halfway through April, but we've finally hit a turn. In this newsletter we will find whatever I think is notable to share with you all, and please feel free to message me through whatever means you have with any tips or tricks to add for next month.

Photo I took:

This was taken at City Hall during one of my "lunch" (4-5 PM) breaks in the main lobby. I used to think taking photos in black and white was pretentious but I've since come around, as we can see in this photo. This was taken on my dinky little point and shoot Olympus XA-2 I got at the MIT flea market which I cannot recommend enough. Either way, I love the framing on this photo. Boston City Hall is often called one of the ugliest buildings in the United States, but I like the brutalism. Seems kinda fitting for a seat of government to be imposing. I also enjoy black and white photography in the snow, as it emphasizes the contrast well with the pillars in City Hall. Overall, it's some of my finer work

Olympus XA-2 example

Funny Caller of the Month

Legally I am allowed to talk about people who call in as long as I don't put in anything identifying, so here we go. With the mayor being in the news for a few reasons (mainly testifying in congress about being a "sanctuary city", we got our fair share of calls about that. There was an outpouring of support which was nice, but there were also fickle callers as well. Perhaps the most notable one is a frequent flier who will always start off the call with "Why does the mayor protect illegal criminals" and some other language I don"t want to repeat here. It's interesting that he continues to call for months even after we basically just tell him we aren't really doing anything. He'll call maybe every 3 days and at a certain point you have to wonder why he doesn't have anything else to do. He'll call at like 3 PM on a weekday when people normally have jobs. I guess it makes sense that such people aren't doing much with their lives

Chris Newsletter April 2025

Random Rantings:

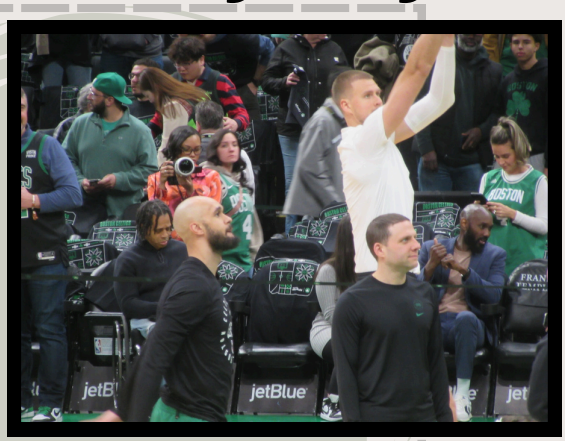
While there's not a large sample size, this 311 job at City Hall has certainly been the most interesting position I've worked. Typically for most jobs you only deal with a certain clientele. When I worked at the vegetarian cafe you definitely saw a certain kind of person who worked there. However, 311 gets you people calling from all walks of life who live in the city, and even many outside of it. While you can also say there's a certain kind of person who lives in Boston, it's perhaps the most diverse clientele you could ask for. Along with that, people have a wide variety of issues they need, whether the city is involved with them or not. From cows on the loose to getting scammed out of $15 million from the Chinese lottery there are plenty of colorful characters out there in the city. It's also been eye opening seeing all the different aspects of government at all levels. Did you know (at least in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) that births, marriages, and deaths are handled by the city, the state (or commonwealth if we want to be fancy) handles everything to do with divorce. If you want to report a restaurant for health code, that's Inspectional Services through the city, but a hospital is done through the state.

Album Recommendation:

The Best of Sinn Sisamouth Vol 3

I imagine most of the people reading this will be around my age and therefore at a similar point in life. It has been an almost unmoored feeling having been out of college for a few years now and actually settled into the doldrums of life. I have my schedule that I follow and make actual money that I have to use for goods and services. In some ways I imagined this shift to be more of a paradigm one, but it feels oddly natural to be in this rhythm. It probably helps that I'm still in my childhood bedroom, getting to merge both who I was with who I am today. It's also very nice that I don't have to pay an arm and a leg to live in Boston (shoutout parents for moving here). I didn't know what to expect when I started my entry into the "mundane" "adult" world, but perhaps I was overthinking how I define myself.

Interesting Things I've Done:



-Went to a Celtics Game!

-Dislocated my knee on the ice! (Mostly healed)

-Went 2-1-1 at the Magic: The Gathering Tarkir Prerelease! Just good enough to get packs and continue my streak

-I've been getting into cassette tapes recently, splurged on a thrift store Nakamichi RX-202!

-My (parent's) kitchen is almost done getting remodeled so I'm getting to eat home cooked food again!